

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) Expression system, containing one or more nucleic acid(s) comprising
 - a) at least one nucleic acid for an IL-15/Fc fusion protein,
 - b) at least one promotor and
 - c) at least one nucleic acid for a CD5 leader,the promotor and the nucleic acid for the CD5 leader being functionally linked to the nucleic acid for the IL-15/Fc fusion protein.
2. (Original) Expression system according to Claim 1, in which the promotor is a CMV promotor.
3. (Currently amended) Expression system according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the promotor is part of a transcription-regulating unit which additionally contains an intron, ~~in particular intron A~~.
4. (Currently amended) Expression system according to ~~any of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 3~~, in which the Fc part of the fusion protein is an Fc fragment of an immunoglobulin G.
5. (Currently amended) Expression system according to ~~any of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 4~~, additionally containing
 - d) at least one nucleic acid for a selectable marker gene.
6. (Currently amended) Expression system according to ~~any of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 5~~, additionally containing at least one nucleic acid for a polyadenylation signal.
- 7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) Nucleic acid, containing the components a) to c) of Claims 1 to 4 and optionally component of d) of claim 5.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) Host cell, containing an expression system according to any of Claims 1 to 9 or a nucleic acid according to Claim 10 or 11.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) Process for preparing an IL-15/Fc fusion protein, comprising

- a. providing a host cell according to any of Claims 12 to 14,
- b. culturing the host cell,
- c. selecting, where appropriate, and
- d. isolating the expressed IL-15/Fc fusion protein.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) Method of expressing a protein in a CHO cell or a derivative thereof comprising

- a) functionally linking the nucleic acid encoding the protein to the nucleic acid encoding the CD5 leader; and
- b) Use of a CD5 leader for expressing a the protein in the CHO cells and or the derivatives thereof, in particular CHO-K1 cells.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) The expression system of claim 3, wherein the intron is intron A.